(b) to (d) Due to increase in traffic, there is sometimes congestion at some of the metro airports, especially, during the peak hours. Government is following an aggresive policy for modernization, upgradation and development of Airport infrastructure in the country. The metro airports of Delhi and Mumbai are being restructured through joint venture route to international standards. Government has also approved construction of greenfield airports of international standards at Hyderabad and Bangalore with private participation. Airports Authority of India have also decided to develop tentatively selected 25 non-metro airports by development of airside and cityside facilities. At several airports measures were taken to improve aesthetics and housekeeping of terminal building and cityside focussing on improving general cleanliness, improvements in toilets, florring, signages, lighting, interior decoration, trollies, airconditioning and horticulture. Central Industrial Security Force inducted in place of local State police at airports for security check, have also been given training in courteous handling of passengers.

Independent Civil Aviation Authority

2175. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish an independent Civil Aviation Authority to oversee the civil aviation sector; and

(b) if so, the structure of the proposed Authority and the date by which it will become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and(b) There is presently no proposal to establish an independent Civil Aviation Authority to oversee the Civil Aviation Sector. However, Government is considering to set up an Airport Economic Regulatory Authority, which is, *inter-alia,* expected to deal with tariff and service standard at airports. The setting up of the Regulatory Authority will require an enabling legislation. However the Directorate General of Civil Aviation will continue to look after other regulatory functions.

Entry of private sector players in ATF supply at airports

2176. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Civil Aviation Policy will end the monopoly of public sector oil companies in supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at Indian airports;

(b) whether Government propose to bring in more competition by allowing private sector players to enter the business; and

(c) whether the private sector players will be provided the same infrastructure as available to the public sector players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Naresh Chandra Committee constituted by the Government to prepare a road map for the civil aviation sector has made the recommendation to allow airlines to source Aviation Turbine Fuel from supplier of their choice. The recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Expansion of Madurai airport

2177. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress and stage of expansion of Madurai airport in Tamil Nadu for international flights to land;

(b) by when it will be completed and thrown open for use; and

(c) whether Government would consider naming the said airport after the great and highly respected leader "Sri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar" on its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The work for extension of runway upto the length of 7500 feet to enable operations of wide-bodied AB-320 type of aircraft has begun in January, 2005 and is expected to be completed by July, 2006. There is a plan for construction of an integrated new terminal building for which period of completion is 18 months from the date of award of work.

(c) The proposal to rename the Madurai airport as Sri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar airport has not been considered favourably because the State Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a policy decision that no